



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Public Hearing – February 13, 2009  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Gina McCarthy  
Department of Environmental Protection

**Proposed House Bill No. 6118 - An Act Concerning Tractor Washing**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Proposed House Bill No. 6118 - AN ACT CONCERNING TRACTOR WASHING. Consistent with the Connecticut Water Pollution Control Act (codified at Chapter 446k), we are supportive of efforts to protect the waters of the state from activities that may create or maintain a source of pollution. Accordingly, we offer the following thoughts on this bill:

Proposed House Bill No. 6118 appears to require that a permit be obtained from the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection for tractor washing activities. The Department is concerned with discharges from vehicle washing activities that utilize detergents and other chemicals. Such activities can be very toxic to aquatic organisms and cause pollution to the waters of the state. The Department currently regulates discharges from washing activities under either the General Permit for the Discharge of Vehicle Maintenance Wastewaters or the General Permit for Miscellaneous Discharges of Sewer Compatible Wastewaters. Any washing activities utilizing detergents or other chemicals are required to be covered under either one of these general permits. The terms and conditions of these general permits are designed to ensure that the discharges are properly managed to prevent pollution. A link to our website and information on these general permits is provided below:

[http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2709&q=324212&depNav\\_GID=1643#GeneralPermits](http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2709&q=324212&depNav_GID=1643#GeneralPermits)

The Department remains willing to work with the Committee to address any environmental concerns regarding tractor washing activities through its existing statutory and regulatory authorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact the Department's legislative liaison, Robert La France, at 424-3401.